

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 291348Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7121

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 1124

EXDIS

ALGIERS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, MO, IR, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO

REF: (A) AMMAN 1092, (B) TEHRAN 2064, (C) TEHRAN 2067

1. THER PERIPATETIC COL KHABBAJ IS BACK IN AMMAN. AT THE REQUEST OF MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR TAZI I MET WITH THEM FOR AN HOUR FEBRUARY 29.

2. I WENT OVER WITH THEM, AT THEIR REQUEST, STEP BY STEP OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAD TO BE DONE REGARDING LETTERS, ASSURANCES, ETC. WITH REGARD TO EACH OF THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS THAT HAD TO BE TRANSFERRED.

3. IT DEVELOPED VERY QUICKLY OUT OF OUR TALK THAT WITH REGARD TO THE IRANIAN-SUPPLIED WEAPONS (155 HOWITZERS AND F-5A'S PLUS MUNITIONS AND SPARES) THAT USG WAS STILL WAITING FOR A FORMAL IRANIAN REQUEST. WITH THE RECEIPT OF REFTEL C, WHICH I FOUND ON MY RETURN TO THE OFFICE, I WAS ABLE TO TELL MOROCCANS THAT THINGS SEEMED TO BE ON TRACK IN THAT AREA. EMBASSY WILL PREPARE A DRAFT LETTER PROVIDING FOR NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES FROM JORDAN IN

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ACCORDANCE WITH PAST TEXTS WHICH WE HAVE USED AND WHICH WILL BE SIGNED WE PRESUME BY JAF COMMANDER IN CHIEF BIN SHAKER IN

THE ABSENCE OF KING AND PRIME MINISTER. WE WILL AWAIT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE REQUESTING THIS LETTER.

4. KHABBAJ WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER IT WOULD TAKE TEN DAYS TO SECURE PERMISSION TO TRANSFER THE ABOVE EQUIPMENT FROM IRAN TO JORDAN AND THEN ANOTHER TEN DAYS TO ARRANGE FOR ITS TRANSFER TO MOROCCO. I TOLD HIM THAT SEEMED TO BE THE CASE BUT WE WOULD CONFIRM WITH WASHINGTON. CAN DEPARTMENT ALSO TELL US WHETHER WEAPONS MUST BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN JORDAN FOR JORDAN TO REQUEST THE RE-TRANSFER OR IS US COMPLETION OF THE "PERMISSION" PROCESS FOR THE IRAN TO JORDAN PHASE OF THE OPERATION SUFFICIENT FOR JORDAN TO REQUEST BY LETTER US CONSIDERATION OF THE JORDAN TO MOROCCO PHASE?

5. ON THE QUESTION OF THE 20 JORDANIAN F-5A'S I REPEATED FOR KHABBAJ THE INFORMATION RECENTLY PASSED TO THE JORDANIANS THAT WE WERE SEEKING EXPLICIT MOROCCAN ASSURANCES ON THE NO-TRANSFER SIDE AND AS WELL DESIRED TO HAVE A WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MOROCCO AND JORDAN ON THE QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT. HE INDICATED HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO RABAT TOMORROW AND WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO EXPEDITE THAT PHASE OF THE PROCESS. I LEFT THEM WITH THE IMPRESSION, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR FROM WHAT DEPARTMENT HAS SAID, THAT BEFORE WE WOULD NOTIFY CONGRESS ON THE F-5A'S WE WOULD WANT TO HAVE THE WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GOM AND GOJ ON REPLACEMENT IN HAND.

6. I INTEND TO BRIEF GENERAL BIN SHAKER THIS AFTERNOON ON THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY GIVEN THE FACT THAT HE WILL BE OUR CONTINUING CONTACT IN JORDAN ON THIS QUESTION.

7. AS OF THE MOMENT, WE HAVE NO FIRM WORD ON SHIPMENT. JORDANIANS LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT MOROCCANS WERE CONSIDERING A CHARGER OF A CARGO 747 TO MOVE THE ARTILLERY (155 HOWITZERS) FROM AMMAN TO RABAT. IRANIANS HAVE NOT BEEN CLEAR, BUT WE ASSUME THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT TOWED NOT SP ARTILLERY. FURTHER

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JORDANIANS AND MOROCCANS ARE STILL THINKING IN TERMS OF FLYING F-5A'S INDIVIDUALLY FROM MIDDLE EAST TO MOROCCO. JORDANIANS WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH US WHEN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES HAVE TO BE OBTAINED.

8. KHABBAJ ASKED ME ABOUT, AND I FILLED HIM IN ON THE LEGAL IMPEDIMENT TO, THE IMMEDIATE DISPATCH OF A "DETACHMENT" OF JORDANIAN F-5A'S TO MOROCCO. PICKERING

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